

DNAG-224

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Hardy Wietzoreck, et al.
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For : METHOD FOR APPLYING A PHOSPHATE COVERING AND
USE OF METAL PARTS THUS PHOSPATED

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 2, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to prosecution, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 3-26, without prejudice and substitute the following claims:

27. A method according to claim 1, wherein the phosphating solution is free or substantially free of nickel or contains up to 20 g/l of nickel ions.

28. A method according to claim 1, wherein the phosphating solution contains polymers, copolymers and/or cross polymers, in particular of N-containing heterocyclic compounds, preferably of vinyl pyrrolidones.

29. A method according to claim 1, wherein a phosphating solution is used in which the ratio of the sum of cations to the phosphate ions, calculated as P_2O_5 , lies in the range of 1:1 to 1:8.

30. A method according to claim 1, wherein an amount of phosphating solution in the range from 1 to 12 ml/m² is applied to the metal parts for drying.